



News Search

Advanced search


[News](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Community](#) | [Directory](#) | [Marketplace](#) | [My Zwire!](#)
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## News

[Headline Stories](#)  
[Local Sports](#)  
[Year in Review 2003](#)  
[Opinion](#)  
[Obituaries](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Faith](#)  
[Technology](#)  
[Travel](#)  
[Trends](#)  
[C.B. 150 Years Trivia](#)  
[Success 2003](#)  
[Archive Information](#)  
[Weather](#)  
[National News](#)  
[National Sports](#)

## Classifieds

## Special Sections

## Business Directory

## Community

## Our Newspaper

## Links

## Legal Notices

## Contact Us

## Subscription Services

## Sports Wire!

## Fun and Games

## Consumer Guide

## Personal Finance

## Lifestyles

## Statewide Display Ads


[home](#) : [news](#) : [news](#) : [headline stories](#)

## Behind the Badge: What's happening at CBPD

KEITH MEHLIN , For the Nonpareil

04/12/2004

Because this appears to be an extra-busy week for me, I am going to try to write one of those columns that professional writers call "Random Thoughts" or "Running Thoughts." I will not be able to call it that though, as I am about as close to being a professional writer as I am to being an astronaut or winning a Nobel Prize.

No, I think that I will have to call this type of column that I write "No Thoughts," because I really had none for this week's piece and am really only using the "busy week" line as an excuse.

So, anyhow, here goes.

Lt. Mike Terry retired from the department last week after 30 years of service. Mike is one of those guys who has an interest in all things financial, particularly investments. The thing with Mike is that he is actually pretty good at this interest. He is one of those guys I thought could have made real money in the private sector.

He spent the last few years of his career heading up our Narcotics Section and overseeing the narcotics task force. It was a good fit because it takes someone with a personality that leans towards money management for that job. Mike is well prepared for his retirement, and I am sure he will have a great time.

Because of Mike's retirement I was able to promote two people last Friday. I promoted Officer Keith Jones to sergeant, and Sgt. Terry LeMaster to lieutenant.

Sgt. Jones has been president of the union for several years, which means that on occasion, we crossed swords, although usually we were on the same page. I am confident he will do a great job as a sergeant for our department. He moves from the Detective Bureau to the Uniform Division.

Lt. LeMaster has already proven himself to be a good supervisor, so the decision to promote him did not take very long. He will take over the Narcotics Section in place of Lt. Mike Terry. He spent time there as a sergeant, and I have all the confidence in the world that he will do an outstanding job.

Last Saturday night I helped out the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I have often remarked that I believe that the men and women of our armed services who





serve in combat are the bravest people that I know.

Let me add another group of people to that category - the children and their parents that this foundation serves. Their courage and bravery is overwhelming.



Last Friday morning, the annual Alcohol Awareness Breakfast was held once again at Lakeshore Country Club. I get to act as emcee each year during the breakfast. The event is held to bring attention to the problems that alcohol abuse causes in our society.



This year the focus was on underage alcohol use and abuse. Two groups of kids, one from Abraham Lincoln High School and one from Underwood High School, spoke to the group about their efforts to get a keg registration bill passed in the Iowa Legislature. Although they were unsuccessful this year, they remained undaunted and focused.



It was great to hear the kids speak about their efforts. Although they were nervous, just like me, they did a great job.



I thought, as I listened to the kids, that they validated another point that I have tried to make. That is that the majority of our kids are good, hard working people. We only hear about the ones who are out making bad decisions.



The two alcohol-related tragedies that occurred in Pottawattamie County over the last several months motivated these kids to take action. Many adults could learn from these kids.

That's about enough of "No Thoughts" for this week. I must get back to exciting regular-duty stuff. You know, like budget problems and making sure our Standard Operating Procedures are up to snuff.


Maybe that is what I will write about next time: The police budget. What a page turner that would be!

- Keith Mehlin is chief of the Council Bluffs Police Department

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